

SAINT CATHERINE OF SIENA

Marches! del Monte, surrendered the Palace of the Podesta, and the banners of the Guilds (the minor Arts having taken part with the populace) were hung out from its windows. On July 22, the Signoria pusillanimously abandoned the Palazzo Vecchio, and the mob swept in in triumph, while the bells of the tower pealed out in honour of the victory of the *popolo minuto*.

A wool-carder, Michele di Lando, who had served the Republic as a crossbowman in the wars, carried the banner of Justice into the palace. Him the populace acclaimed Gonfalon-iere and Lord of Florence. It is needless to repeat the story of how this man, who had taken no part in the excesses of the mob, saved the State. Finding himself thus the sole ruler of the city, he instantly issued a proclamation that the ravages and brutalities of the insurgents must cease on pain of death, and summoned a parliament, where he was confirmed Gonfaloniere of Justice until the end of August. On the following day, July 23, he proposed the names of the new magistrates. Besides himself, four of the new Signoria represented the *popolo minuto*, two the minor Arts (including the shoemaker, Benedetto di Carlone, already mentioned), and two the greater Arts. They entered office with the usual formalities on July 25.

Nevertheless, the general panic did not abate. In spite of repeated proclamations from the Signoria, many citizens fled to their villas in the contado, taking their families and movable goods with them, while those that remained would not lay down their arms nor open their shops. The crossbowmen of the Republic were marched through the city, to restore confidence, without avail. There was a general attempt to reform the State ; the admonitions of the Parte Guelfa were annulled, and admonished families readmitted to office ; and, on the last day of July, all the papers in the ballot-boxes, from which the names of the magistrates were drawn, were burnt: " in order that all things might be reformed anew, and that good men and merchants might be put into office." On August I, the priors went through the city in the morning, with trumpets and other instruments, which " mightily reassured those who wished to live in peace " ;